

EXHIBIT G

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
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5
6 IN RE PACIFIC FERTILITY)
7 CENTER LITIGATION,) Case No. 3:18-cv-01586-JSC
8 _____)
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13 VIDEOTAPED & VIDEOCONFERENCED DEPOSITION of J.
14 DAVID WININGER, Ph.D., taken on behalf of Defendant
15 remotely beginning at 8:03 a.m., Monday, November 30,
16 2020, before CHERREE P. PETERSON, RPR, CRR, Certified
17 Shorthand Reporter No. 11108.
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1 A P P E A R A N C E S
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3 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:
4 GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP
5 505 14th Street, Suite 1110
6 Oakland, California 94162
7 BY: AMY M. ZEMAN, ESQ.
8 (510) 350-9700
9 amz@classlawgroup.com
10
11 FOR THE DEFENDANT CHART INDUSTRIES, INC.:
12 SWANSON, MARTIN & BELL, LLP
13 330 N Wabash, Suite 3300
14 Chicago, Illinois 60611
15 BY: JOHN J. DUFFY, ESQ.
16 KEVIN M. RINGEL, ESQ.
17 MARGARET C. REDSHAW, ESQ.
18 (312) 321-9100
19 jduffy@smbtrials.com
20 kringel@smbtrials.com
21 mredshaw@smbtrials.com
22
23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER:
24 PHILIP KNOWLES
25

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6 ---oOo---
7 E X H I B I T S
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9 DEFENDANT'S EXHIBIT NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE
10 222 November 6, 2020, Expert Report Of David Wininger, Ph.D., (40 Pages) 26
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1 NOVEMBER 30, 2020
2 ---oOo---
3 BE IT REMEMBERED that set on Monday, the 30th
4 day of November, 2020, commencing at the hour of 8:03
5 a.m., taken remotely before me, Cherree P. Peterson,
6 RPR, CRR, CSR No. 11108, a Certified Shorthand Reporter,
7 personally appeared
8 J. DAVID WININGER, Ph.D.,
9 having been called as a witness by the defendant, who
10 having been duly sworn by me to tell the truth, the
11 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was thereupon
12 examined and testified as hereinafter set forth.
13 ---oOo---
14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good morning, Counsel. My
15 name is Philip Knowles. And I am the host and
16 videographer associated with Barkley Court Reporters
17 located at 201 California Street, Suite 375, in San
18 Francisco, California 94111. The date today is Monday,
19 November 30th, 2020, and the time is approximately 8:03
20 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.
21 This deposition is taking place remotely via
22 Zoom in the matter of Pacific Fertility Center
23 litigation with case number 3:18-CV-01586-JSC. This is
24 the videotaped deposition of Ph.D. David Wininger being
25 taken on behalf of counsel for defendants.

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1 Will counsels for the parties please voice
2 identify themselves.
3 **MR. DUFFY:** John Duffy for Chart.
4 **MS. ZEMAN:** Amy Zeman for the plaintiffs.
5 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Thank you. The court
6 reporter may now swear in the witness, and we can
7 proceed.
8 **THE REPORTER:** Raise your right hand, please,
9 Doctor.
10 (Whereupon the witness was placed under oath.)
11 **THE REPORTER:** Thank you.
12 **EXAMINATION BY MR. DUFFY**
13 Q. Good morning, Dr. Wininger. My name is John
14 Duffy; and I represent Chart, Inc., the maker of the MVE
15 freezer at issue in this case. I'm going to be taking
16 your deposition this morning. I know you have and are
17 represented by able counsel, but I figured we'd just go
18 over a couple of ground rules to hopefully make this a
19 little bit easier for you and me, for Ms. Zeman and for
20 the court reporter.
21 So as you can see, we are taking your
22 deposition remotely. And that's obviously being done on
23 Zoom. Normally these things are done while we're all in
24 the same room. And some of the body language that we
25 could get for being in the same room would be easier

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1 seen, but here we're going to be doing it remotely.
2 One of the things that's really, really
3 important for Cherree, our court reporter, is that we
4 both wait for the other person to finish speaking before
5 we begin speaking. And the reason we have to do that is
6 Cherree can't take two people talking down on her
7 machine at the same time. Okay?
8 **A. Okay.**
9 Q. One of the things I think you'll probably see
10 as I'm asking my questions is you'll know the answer
11 even before I'm finished, but that's where we have to
12 hope for you to just wait and then let me finish and
13 then you can give your answer. Okay?
14 **A. Okay.**
15 Q. I also need you to make sure all of your
16 answers are audible, out loud. You can't shake your
17 head or shrug your shoulders in response to a question.
18 Okay?
19 **A. Okay.**
20 Q. And that's because Cherree can't take that down
21 on a transcript. Okay?
22 **A. Okay.**
23 Q. I don't always ask the best questions. If I
24 ask you a question that doesn't make sense, please go
25 ahead and ask me to rephrase it. Okay?

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1 **A. Okay.**
2 Q. If you answer my questions, I'm going to assume
3 that you have understood what I've asked you. Is that
4 fair?
5 **A. That's fair.**
6 Q. Okay. How old are you, sir?
7 **A. I am 57.**
8 Q. And where did you grow up?
9 **A. I grew up in upper east Tennessee, in**
10 **Blountville, Tennessee. It's close to Kingsport,**
11 **Bristol, up in the -- kind of close to Virginia.**
12 Q. And where did you go to college?
13 **A. Undergraduate I went to East Tennessee State**
14 **University in Johnson City, Tennessee. I got my BS**
15 **there. And then I went to University of Tennessee,**
16 **Knoxville, for my master's degree in biotechnology and**
17 **my Ph.D. in zoology.**
18 Q. And when did you receive your undergraduate
19 degree?
20 **A. I received that in '84.**
21 Q. And when did you receive your master's?
22 **A. '86.**
23 Q. And how about your Ph.D.?
24 **A. 1990.**
25 Q. What was the thesis that you wrote for your

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1 Ph.D.?
2 **A. My Ph.D. was on the -- it was the maturation of**
3 **immature oocytes and the identification of bonding sites**
4 **for prolactin via scanning electron microscopy because**
5 **my master's -- my master's work was showing that**
6 **prolactin increased maturation of oocytes. So I showed**
7 **that through scanning microscopy I could localize the**
8 **receptor sites for prolactin on the oocytes for several**
9 **different species.**
10 Q. Have you ever given a deposition before?
11 **A. No, I haven't.**
12 Q. I was able to review your curriculum vitae
13 before the beginning of our deposition. I just had a
14 couple of questions for you about where you're working
15 now. Well, even before I get there, because this is
16 going to be sort of relevant to some of my questions, do
17 you currently live in Advance, North Carolina?
18 **A. Yes, I do.**
19 Q. And in your CV I noticed that you list five
20 labs that you're currently the lab director for; is that
21 right?
22 **A. That is correct.**
23 Q. The first one is Westlake IVF in Austin, Texas;
24 is that right?
25 **A. That is one of them, correct.**

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1 Q. And are you an on-site or off-site director for
2 them?
3 **A. I am the off-site director for that lab.**
4 Q. And then another lab that you are a director
5 for is Atlantic Reproductive Medicine in Raleigh, North
6 Carolina; is that right?
7 **A. That's correct.**
8 Q. Are you on-site or an off-site director for the
9 Atlantic Reproductive Medicine lab?
10 **A. I am on site.**
11 Q. And then you are also the lab director at Magee
12 Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; correct?
13 **A. Correct.**
14 Q. Are you an on-site or off-site director for
15 Magee Women's Hospital?
16 **A. I'm the off-site director.**
17 Q. And you're also the laboratory director of the
18 University of Pittsburgh Physicians in Hermitage,
19 Pennsylvania; is that right?
20 **A. Yes.**
21 Q. And are you on site or off site there?
22 **A. I am off site.**
23 Q. And then, finally, you are the lab director at
24 Carolina Specialty Care; is that correct?
25 **A. That's correct.**

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1 Q. And is that an on-site or off-site lab
2 directorship?
3 **A. That is off site.**
4 Q. So currently you have one on-site director
5 position and four off-site director positions; correct?
6 **A. That is correct.**
7 Q. Is the Magee Women's Hospital lab accredited by
8 the College of American Pathologists?
9 **A. Yes, it is.**
10 Q. Is the University of Pittsburgh Physicians
11 laboratory accredited by the College of American
12 Pathologists?
13 **A. Yes, it is.**
14 Q. How about Carolina Specialty Care, is that also
15 accredited by CAP?
16 **A. Yes.**
17 Q. And the Atlantic Reproductive Medicine lab, is
18 that CAP accredited?
19 **A. Yes, it is.**
20 Q. And Westlake as well?
21 **A. Yes.**
22 Q. In your curriculum vitae you list an assistant
23 professorship at Wake Forest, and it lasted from October
24 of 2017 to January of 2018 or about three months. Is
25 that a position that you held?

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1 **A. Yes, I did hold that.**
2 Q. Why did you only serve in that role for three
3 months?
4 **A. I actually held that position previously for**
5 **four years earlier in the 2000s when I first moved to**
6 **North Carolina. The reason I held it for only three**
7 **months during this second time I worked there was that**
8 **it was a transition period where a lab was closed where**
9 **I was directing in High Point, North Carolina, for ten**
10 **years. The University of North Carolina bought the**
11 **hospital and closed our program.**
12 **So the medical director, the program director**
13 **of OB-GYN at Wake Forest gave me a position for a short**
14 **amount of time until I found something else that I was**
15 **interested in. So I did -- I was there for a short**
16 **amount of time until I started on site at Atlantic**
17 **Reproductive Medicine and started more off-site lab**
18 **directorships.**
19 Q. I notice in your curriculum vitae that you were
20 the lab director at Toll Center for Reproductive
21 Sciences at Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington,
22 Pennsylvania, from about 1993 to 1998. Does that sound
23 about right?
24 **A. That's correct.**
25 Q. Did you work with Dr. Somkuti at Abington?

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1 **A. Yes, I worked with Dr. Somkuti for several**
2 **years. He was not there when I took the position, but**
3 **he joined a practice for the last few years that I was**
4 **at Abington.**
5 Q. And are you and Dr. Somkuti friends?
6 **A. No, we are not.**
7 Q. Are you familiar with the concept of long-term
8 storage of human tissue by outside companies?
9 **A. Yes, I am.**
10 Q. In the labs that you currently direct, are you
11 doing long-term storage in your labs or are you sending
12 the tissue off site to a long-term storage company for
13 future use?
14 **A. Really, all the labs where I work that we do in**
15 **vitro fertilization we do a combination of the two with**
16 **the majority on site.**
17 Q. What's the distinction between short-term and
18 long-term in your lab?
19 **A. Yeah, I'll speak first of our lab in Raleigh,**
20 **Atlantic Reproductive, since that's where I'm on site.**
21 **Most of our patients do store on site, but the patients**
22 **that we do procedures for embryo cryopreservation,**
23 **oocyte -- or, actually, vitrification embryo,**
24 **vitrification oocyte, vitrification or sperm**
25 **cryopreservation for cancer treatment or if they're**

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1 going to military. We have a lot of military officers
2 or members that come in that cryopreserve sperm before
3 they go off seas, overseas, and we cryopreserve sperm
4 for them. And those go into long-term storage that we
5 send to a company off site. So any samples that we
6 think are going to be long-term storage that they do not
7 intend to use for years, we do store those off site.
8 Q. At Atlantic Reproductive do you have an egg
9 freezing program?
10 A. Yes, we do.
11 Q. And do you store those at Atlantic Reproductive
12 in Raleigh, North Carolina, or do you send those out for
13 long-term storage?
14 A. It depends on what the patient's wishes are.
15 If they plan on using those eggs within a year, we keep
16 them on site. If it's going to be a long term, again, a
17 cancer patient or something like that that's going to be
18 a very long term or they're going to have chemotherapy
19 and other types of procedures, we store those off site.
20 And then also --
21 Q. And -- sorry. My bad. Sorry. Go ahead.
22 A. That's all right. And we also cryopreserve for
23 some egg banks. And those -- we store those on site
24 until they are -- they are needed somewhere else, and
25 then we send those to the different IVF facilities.

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1 Q. So at Atlantic Reproductive you actually have a
2 section of your lab dedicated to storing eggs for
3 another facility?
4 A. Not another facility. It's another -- it's a
5 -- it's an egg bank that we vitrify oocytes for them.
6 There are something like 50 different IVF programs in
7 the US that take part in this. And then when the
8 patient gets -- has a cat -- they have a catalog of the
9 eggs. And if they pick some eggs that are at our
10 facility, we are contacted by the egg bank. And they
11 send a dry shipper, which is a small liquid nitrogen
12 vessel that you actually add nitrogen to it and it
13 absorbs into sort of a sponge-type area. And we put the
14 cane of oocytes into that, and they are picked up by a
15 courier and shipped to the IVF center that requested --
16 that the patient requested these oocytes. So that's --
17 we do not do a lot of that. The vast majority egg
18 cryopreservation we do is our -- is for our patients.
19 Q. And do you send any of those eggs off site if
20 the patient, for example, doesn't know when they may use
21 them in the future?
22 A. If they -- again, if they do not intend on
23 using them within a year, we can send them off site
24 because it's either long-term banking and there's a
25 place in our -- a registry, our SART registry where we

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1 have to put these eggs or embryos are going to be
2 long-term storage. And we put that in there so that
3 means we're not going -- we're not going to do anything
4 with them for a year. It's the same with embryos.
5 Q. And what facility do you send eggs and embryos
6 to for long-term storage?
7 A. ReproTech.
8 Q. And which location do you send those to?
9 A. We send those to a location in Florida.
10 Q. Do the patients at your labs then enter into a
11 storage agreement with ReproTech?
12 A. Some of -- patients that are going to actually
13 use ReproTech, they do sign a long term -- they do have
14 to sign a storage document with ReproTech. And a lot of
15 the -- we have a lot of the men that are going to be
16 doing sperm cryopreservation. We have them sign the
17 document. Really, all of them do. Because unless
18 they're freezing and ready -- you know, if their wife is
19 actively having in vitro fertilization and they want to
20 freeze a few samples before the egg retrieval in case
21 they have an issue the day of. Other men do freeze for
22 long-term storage, and we do definitely have them sign a
23 ReproTech agreement.
24 Q. And then the storage fees for long-term storage
25 of eggs or sperm, the payments would go to ReproTech,

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1 not to your lab. Is that fair?
2 A. That's correct.
3 MS. ZEMAN: Objection. John, what is the
4 relevance of this to his report?
5 MR. DUFFY: It's just background.
6 MS. ZEMAN: It does not seem particularly
7 relevant to his opinions as stated in his report.
8 But, David, you can go ahead and answer his
9 last question.
10 MR. DUFFY: He did, actually.
11 Q. In your review of the materials, Dr. Wininger,
12 did you see whether PFC employed a -- well, strike that.
13 In your review of the materials, did PFC do
14 long-term storage of eggs and embryos?
15 A. Not that I noticed. What I saw was on-site
16 storage.
17 Q. And I guess that's my fault. That was a bad
18 question. Would PFC store eggs and embryos for more
19 than one year?
20 A. Yes, they would.
21 Q. And did you see any evidence that they offered
22 long-term storage at another facility?
23 A. No, I didn't.
24 Q. What is the American Association of Tissue
25 Banks?

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1 A. That is an organization that is involved with
2 -- as it says, just any issues involving any type of
3 tissue banking.
4 Q. And do they provide certification process?
5 A. Not that I know of. I do not -- I do not know
6 a lot about AATB. But they do have recommendations and
7 information. But I do not know of centers that are --
8 receive accreditation by AATB.
9 Q. What is the American Board of Bioanalysis?
10 A. American Board of Bioanalysis is sort of our --
11 one of our agencies that we go through to receive our
12 accreditation individually. So the -- when I received
13 my Ph.D. and -- I had to get an HCLD, high complexity
14 laboratory director, to get that. I had to apply
15 through -- the application was actually through AAB,
16 American Association -- American Association of
17 Bioanalysis. But the actual certificate comes from the
18 Board, American Board of Bioanalysis. So they -- all of
19 my -- when I -- I have to get so many hours of
20 continuing education credit every two years as part of
21 that HCLD, and that is -- that goes through the Board.
22 Q. So are you familiar with the board
23 certification process for a physician?
24 A. No, I am not.
25 Q. Would an AAB HCLD certification be like a board

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1 certification for a lab director?
2 A. Yes, it is.
3 Q. And you have a -- you're board certified as a
4 high complexity lab director; is that right?
5 A. That is correct.
6 Q. And Grace Centola is also board certified as a
7 high complexity lab director?
8 A. Yes, she is.
9 Q. And is Joseph Conaghan also board certified as
10 a high complexity lab director?
11 A. Yes, he is.
12 Q. In order to be a lab director, you need to have
13 an HCLD typically. Is that a fair statement?
14 A. That is correct.
15 Q. In order to get an HCLD, you have to meet
16 minimum standards for assisted reproductive
17 technologies; is that right?
18 A. Yes. But before you can take the HCLD, you
19 have -- you have to perform a number of procedures by
20 yourself before you can sit for the HCLD. You have to
21 supervise staff. You have -- you have to do I think --
22 when I took it in '93, I think, '93 -- '90 -- I think it
23 was '93 we had to show that we had, again, supervised
24 staff, that we had performed 20 in vitro fertilization
25 procedures alone, things like that, to sit for the HCLD.

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1 And then -- that's correct.
2 Q. And do you also need an educational background
3 of a particular type?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And what is that?
6 A. A degree in a biological, chemical, or a
7 physical science.
8 Q. And when you're gaining the minimum standards
9 for assisted reproductive technology procedures, you're
10 performing procedures pursuant to the guidelines set
11 forth by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine;
12 correct?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Is it true that federal regulations recognize
15 AAB as the certifying agency for directors and clinical
16 consultants?
17 A. Yes, they do.
18 Q. And most states recognize AAB as the certifying
19 agency for lab directors. Is that a fair statement?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. I notice that you also have another designation
22 from AAB which is clinical consultant; is that right?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. What is a clinical consultant?
25 A. That -- the clinical consultant is another

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1 requirement. You have to have a clinical consultant at
2 your -- at your laboratory, at your -- at your clinic.
3 So a lot of -- a lot of times M.D.s will fill that role.
4 But I -- AAB will certify you as a clinical consultant.
5 So the lab can be -- the HCLD can also be a
6 clinical consultant where we can look -- really just
7 means evaluating all of the data and being able to give
8 that information to the physicians or if -- actually, if
9 the patient happens to be in the office with the -- with
10 the physician, he can call me in to give really more
11 information with the patient with the M.D. present about
12 embryology question, andrology question, really anything
13 that has to do with the lab.
14 Q. And so when you're a clinical consultant, does
15 that allow you to interpret lab results?
16 A. Well, really you do not need a clinical
17 consultant to interpret lab results. I have -- I have
18 just recently -- I haven't had a clinical consultant for
19 that long. So I have been doing this for over 30 years.
20 So I've been interpreting the laboratory results for
21 andrology and embryology and really all the laboratories
22 that, you know -- everything that happens in the lab.
23 And the clinical consultant is just sort of something
24 you can add on to your HCLD without taking an additional
25 test.

Page 22

1 Q. Do you -- do you recall specifically what it
2 allows you to do -- excuse me -- what it allows you to
3 do that adds to whatever you are able to do as an HCLD?
4 MS. ZEMAN: Objection. Asked and answered.
5 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: You can answer.
6 A. Really, it, again, I have -- I can meet with
7 the patients in the presence of the M.D. And, actually,
8 some of the men I can meet with. I have met some of the
9 men that -- in the -- from the andrology lab that have
10 questions about their results. Or they will call, and I
11 can give them information about their results. And it
12 really doesn't -- to tell you the truth, doesn't add a
13 whole lot to what I was doing before.
14 But, I mean, there are people that have other
15 degrees as well on top of their HCLD that doesn't give
16 them any -- anything else. I mean, there's HCLD means
17 that we can direct andrology and embryology
18 laboratories. But there are some people that have HCLD
19 and an ELD, which means an embryology laboratory
20 director, which an HCLD does the same thing.
21 Q. The ELD designation that you have just
22 mentioned, that is another board certification issued by
23 AAB; is that right?
24 A. That is correct.
25 Q. And an embryology lab director still has not

Page 23

1 been recognized by the federal regulations governing
2 IVF. Is that a true statement?
3 A. Yeah, that is correct.
4 Q. Would you describe for us briefly what CLIA
5 means in your practice?
6 A. What CLIA means is basically the state
7 certification that tells us that we can operate our
8 business. We do not have a CLIA inspection. It is if
9 -- if you have a CAP certification, CLIA says that you
10 can -- you do not have to have a separate CLIA
11 registration or inspection as well. They say that the
12 CAP regulations are more stringent than CLIA.
13 So CLIA really is the -- sort of the license
14 that gives us permission to operate our assisted
15 reproductive business there at the different locations.
16 And but as long as we are CAP accredited, we do not have
17 to actually do anything. But they will send the new
18 CLIA certificate every two years.
19 Q. So do state regulators -- well, strike that.
20 Let me make sure I understand.
21 In the five labs where you're a lab director
22 today, all five of those are CAP certified; correct?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And they're in three states, Texas, North
25 Carolina, and Pennsylvania; is that right?

Page 24

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And because your labs are CAP accredited,
3 representatives of the states of Texas, North Carolina,
4 and Pennsylvania do not come in to inspect your labs;
5 correct?
6 A. That's correct.
7 Q. They depend upon CAP to do that; correct?
8 A. That is correct.
9 Q. How about the FDA, does the FDA come in and
10 inspect your labs?
11 A. Yes, they do.
12 Q. How often do they do that?
13 A. They do that every two years also like CAP.
14 They're on a two-year plan.
15 Q. When the FDA sends an inspector in to conduct
16 an investigation or an inspection, is that individual an
17 HCLD?
18 A. No.
19 Q. I wanted to ask you just a little bit about
20 your work here in -- forensic-type work here in
21 litigation. Have you ever done it before this
22 assignment?
23 A. I don't understand the question.
24 Q. Oh, okay. It was a bad one, Dr. Wininger. I'm
25 sorry.

Page 25

1 A. It's actually Wininger.
2 Q. Wininger. Okay. Thank you very much.
3 A. Okay.
4 Q. Dr. Wininger, have you ever acted as an expert
5 before?
6 A. No, I haven't.
7 Q. When were you hired?
8 A. It was --
9 MS. ZEMAN: Objection. I don't see the
10 relevance.
11 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: You can -- you can answer.
12 A. It's a few months ago. I don't remember the
13 exact date.
14 Q. So it's November 30, 2020, today. And you were
15 hired just a few months ago. Does that sound about
16 right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Who contacted you first?
19 A. Mr. Polk.
20 Q. How -- strike that.
21 Do you know how they got your name?
22 A. They got my name from Dr. Somkuti.
23 Q. Let me share with you in the chat feature, Dr.
24 Wininger, the report that you have done in this case.
25 And then, Philip, could you mark this as Chart

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1 [Exhibit 222](#).

2 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Absolutely.

3 (Defendant's [Exhibit 222](#) marked for

4 identification.)

5 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Dr. Wininger, when you download

6 it on your end, go ahead and open it up, if you would,

7 just so you have it available. And just let me know

8 when you're able to do that.

9 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Do you want me to share my

10 screen and bring it forward or?

11 **MR. DUFFY:** No. No. That's okay. I think

12 it's a little easier when witnesses are able to control

13 the document. Thank you, though, Philip.

14 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** No worries. I'll shut up

15 now.

16 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. I have it open.

17 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Okay. You were retained to

18 provide a professional opinion in three areas. Does

19 that sound right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. One was whether Tank 4 performed as safely as

22 an ordinary user of cryogenic vessels would expect;

23 correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And the second was whether the plaintiffs' eggs

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1 and embryos were damaged by the Tank 4 incident; is that

2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And third is whether plaintiffs' eggs and

5 embryos were exposed to dangerous conditions prior to

6 the Tank 4 incident; is that right?

7 A. Yes. That is correct.

8 Q. Do you have any opinions about whether Joseph

9 Conaghan and his lab colleagues complied with the

10 standard of care in this case?

11 A. No, I do not.

12 Q. As part of your opinions you read Dr.

13 Conaghan's 2019 and 2020 depositions; correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And did you review the exhibits to those

16 depositions as well?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Did you read the deposition of Gina Cirimele

19 and the exhibits to that deposition?

20 A. I do not -- I do not recall reading that

21 deposition.

22 Q. All right. Turn to page 28 of your report,

23 please, and just let me know when you're there.

24 A. Okay. I'm here.

25 Q. At the bottom of the page on 28 and you'll see

Page 28

1 a designation of 8-31-20. Do you see that?

2 A. 8-21 or 8-31?

3 Q. 8-31, Doctor.

4 A. Okay. Yes. Yes. I see that.

5 Q. And it's listed here as a deposition of Gina

6 Cirimele; is that right?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. Is that a deposition -- does this reflect --

9 refresh your recollection that you reviewed that

10 deposition?

11 A. Yes, you're correct. I reviewed so many

12 things. Yes, you're correct.

13 Q. Do you know Joseph Conaghan?

14 A. No, I do not.

15 Q. You've never met him?

16 A. No, I have not.

17 Q. Do you know Grace Centola?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. How do you know Ms. -- or Dr. Centola?

20 A. She -- I knew her from a lab in Pennsylvania

21 that I was associated with back in the mid '90s. And

22 she was also the editor of a -- of the online editor of

23 an online embryology discussion board that most

24 embryologists are -- belong to called Embryomail. I

25 knew -- I knew of her from that. And I have run into

Page 29

1 her at a couple of industry events.

2 Q. And what lab in Pennsylvania did you work at

3 that she was associated with?

4 A. I did not work with her while she was at that

5 lab. But it was a lab that I was involved with after

6 she left. It was Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr,

7 Pennsylvania.

8 Q. And approximately when did you take over the

9 Bryn Mawr lab?

10 A. Well, I was asked to design that lab while I

11 was working at Abington Memorial Hospital. There was an

12 M.D. there that was from the Bryn Mawr area that

13 actually had to drive to Abington daily. It's about a

14 30- to 45-minute drive. And he did that for several

15 years and decided he wanted to set up a new IVF program

16 at Bryn Mawr Hospital, and he asked me to help him

17 design the lab.

18 So I -- so I did design the lab and met with

19 the architects and everything you have to do as -- when

20 you're designing an IVF lab. But before he actually

21 opened, I received a job offer from another lab in

22 Georgia, Atlanta. So I moved but stayed on as his

23 off-site lab director for many years until I got too

24 busy at my laboratory in Atlanta, which was a very, very

25 large lab.

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1 So at that point they brought in Dr. Centola.
2 And I'm not exactly sure how long she was there. But
3 she ended up leaving the position, and I was asked to
4 come back as an off-site lab director for several more
5 years until they actually hired them a full-time lab
6 director.
7 Q. How long did you serve in that off-site
8 directorship for Bryn Mawr after Dr. Centola left?
9 A. I think it was approximately three or four
10 years.
11 Q. Just so I understand it, Dr. Wininger, did Dr.
12 Centola take over the Bryn Mawr lab after you had
13 designed it; is that right?
14 A. No. That's incorrect.
15 Q. I'm sorry. What -- did she serve at Bryn Mawr
16 before your time there and after your time there, or did
17 she only serve at Bryn Mawr after your time there?
18 A. Well, after I designed the lab and moved to
19 Atlanta, I was asked to be the off-site lab director.
20 And I stayed -- I was their off-site lab director for
21 approximately five or six years.
22 And at that time -- at which time, again, I got
23 too busy in Atlanta at the large IVF center. So I had
24 to tell the physicians I had to stop being their
25 off-site lab director.

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1 Q. And is that when they hired Dr. Centola?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. And how long did she serve as the off-site lab
4 director at Bryn Mawr?
5 A. I'm not sure how long she was there.
6 Q. But would it be fair to say that she was the
7 off-site lab director at Bryn Mawr in the lab that you
8 helped design?
9 A. That's correct.
10 Q. And --
11 A. I'm not sure, again, as -- I'm still not sure
12 for how long she was there.
13 Q. When you came back to be the off-site lab
14 director at Bryn Mawr, did you have any criticisms of
15 Dr. Centola as a lab director for her time at Bryn Mawr?
16 A. I personally did not.
17 Q. Did somebody else other than yourself?
18 A. Well, it was -- I was told that she was mainly
19 involved in the andrology and endocrine part but did not
20 really work in the embryology lab as much as they would
21 have liked. That I think her expertise was on the
22 andrology side, and I think she did a good job there.
23 But it didn't seem that the embryology in vitro
24 fertilization lab was what she was expert in. So I
25 think that's when I -- they asked me to come back

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1 because I had held -- that's what I mainly do. I'm an
2 embryologist laboratory director. So that's -- and I
3 also do andrology as well, but embryology is my -- is my
4 main area of expertise.
5 Q. Do you have an embryology lab director board
6 certification?
7 A. Yes. The HCLD, I took the embryology part, the
8 andrology part, and the general lab knowledge part.
9 There were three different sections. So as I took --
10 when I took that, I was certified in both andrology,
11 embryology, and general lab knowledge.
12 Q. Okay. So just so I understand it, then, when
13 you get your HCLD board certification you simultaneously
14 have a board certification for embryology lab director
15 and andrology lab director; is that right?
16 A. At that time that is correct. Now you can take
17 an HCLD and just pick and you can say I'm going to get
18 an HCLD in just andrology or just embryology. So they
19 can do the embryology part, they can direct embryology
20 lab or an andrology lab, but not both. So I know a lot
21 of, you know -- several people do that. That they're
22 not comfortable taking it all at one -- at one sitting
23 studying the whole part for all three parts.
24 Q. Okay. And you indicated that you were familiar
25 with Dr. Centola for her work in an organization that I

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1 think you described as Embryomail; is that right?
2 A. That's correct.
3 Q. And can you tell us a little more about what
4 that is or was?
5 A. Well, it's still very -- it's still present.
6 It's a discussion group where you can post, ask
7 questions to other embryologists, andrologists; you can
8 put position notices on there if you're looking for an
9 embryologist or an andrologist, a lab director, those
10 sorts of things. So that's -- it seems like that is
11 what mainly is happening with Embryomail now. It's more
12 of a place to put in your request for new employees.
13 Q. Okay.
14 A. And it is still -- it is still very active. We
15 probably get it three times a week.
16 Q. And what was Dr. Centola's role in Embryomail?
17 MS. ZEMAN: Objection. What is the relevance
18 of this to Dr. Wininger's report?
19 MR. DUFFY: He has interactions with my expert.
20 I want to find out about them.
21 MS. ZEMAN: Did he rely on those interactions
22 for his report?
23 MR. DUFFY: I don't know. We can find out.
24 MS. ZEMAN: Well, why don't you ask him that,
25 and then we can continue those questions. But as we've

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1 mentioned many times, there's a stipulation in this case
2 governing discovery of experts. And I'm not seeing how
3 this line of question has anything to do with what he
4 relied on for his report or his report itself.
5 **MR. DUFFY:** I don't think in this deposition
6 relevance is a valid objection, Amy.
7 **MS. ZEMAN:** Well, as I just said, it seems to
8 be beyond the scope of the stipulation that governs what
9 discovery can be pursued with our experts.
10 **MR. DUFFY:** In what way? I'm sorry. We can go
11 off the record, if you'd like to discuss it. I'd be
12 happy to do that.
13 **MS. ZEMAN:** Sure. We can go off the record for
14 a moment.
15 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** We are now going off the
16 record at 8:58 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.
17 (Whereupon a break was taken from 8:58 to
18 9:13.)
19 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** We are now going back on
20 record. The time is 9:13 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.
21 **MR. DUFFY:** Cherree, would you please read back
22 the last question and answer just so I can reorient
23 myself.
24 **THE REPORTER:** There's actually a question
25 pending.

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1 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)
2 **MR. DUFFY:** You can go ahead and answer that
3 question, please, Doctor.
4 **THE WITNESS:** I really don't know what the
5 editor's role is there. I subscribe to Embryomail. And
6 I read it, you know, every time it comes in my inbox.
7 But you really don't -- you really don't see a lot of
8 information from any of the people behind the scenes.
9 So I'm really not sure what the role of editor is at
10 Embryomail.
11 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Okay. But that was Dr.
12 Centola's role as an editor of Embryomail for a period
13 of time?
14 **A. Yes. I'm not sure how long, but I know she was**
15 **there for a period of time.**
16 Q. And you personally met Dr. Centola before; is
17 that right?
18 **A. Yes. We have met at industry events.**
19 Q. Would that be the ASRM conferences?
20 **A. Yes. Yes. The -- those conferences. There's**
21 **a AAB conference that occurs annually as well. I mean,**
22 **it used to. Now everything is virtual; so I haven't**
23 **seen anybody in forever. But yeah, it -- I've seen Dr.**
24 **Centola at different events like that.**
25 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** May I interrupt for one sec?

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1 **MR. DUFFY:** Sure.
2 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** I think -- remember this
3 morning when your thing was --
4 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah.
5 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** If you could fix it again.
6 It's making that, like, ruffling of paper sound.
7 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. Is that any better?
8 **MR. DUFFY:** Why don't we do a little test. Why
9 don't you go ahead and start. Just count to ten, Dr.
10 Wininger.
11 **THE WITNESS:** One, two, three, four, five. Is
12 that okay?
13 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** That sounds better to me.
14 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.
15 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Cherree, are you okay?
16 **THE REPORTER:** Yeah, that's good.
17 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Okay. Sorry for all the
18 unnecessary commentary.
19 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Is Dr. Centola a qualified lab
20 director?
21 **A. She has her HCLD. So yes, she is.**
22 Q. One of the opinions that you hold in this case
23 is that Tank 4 failed to perform as safely as an
24 ordinary user would expect; is that correct?
25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5 Q. Over how long a period of time?
6 **MS. ZEMAN:** Objection. This is beyond the
7 scope of his expert testimony.
8 **MR. DUFFY:** I think it's part of it. It says
9 "sudden." I'm asking for the time frame.
10 Q. You can answer.
11 **MS. ZEMAN:** Where -- again, no. Dr. Wininger
12 is an embryologist. He is not an engineer put forth to
13 opine on the mechanical failure of the tank.
14 **MR. DUFFY:** Well, he has an opinion that users
15 do not expect sudden vacuum seal failure. It's at page
16 14 and 15 of his report. So I'm just asking him now
17 what he meant by that.
18 Q. Dr. Wininger, when you came to the conclusion
19 that a user does not expect a sudden vacuum seal
20 failure, how long a period of time are you concluding
21 that there was a sudden vacuum seal failure?
22 **A. [REDACTED]**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
25 Q. And do you -- sorry.

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1 **A. 2018.**
2 Q. Do you know how many hours it took for the
3 vacuum seal to be lost?
4 **A. No, I do not.**
5 Q. To prepare for your deposition today, what did
6 you do?
7 **A. I reviewed my report several times. I spoke**
8 **with my counsel, Amy and Geoff. I looked at Dr.**
9 **Jewell's report.**
10 Q. Did you review the report of a Chart expert
11 named Franklin Miller?
12 **A. For preparation for the deposition?**
13 Q. I guess at any time.
14 **A. Yeah, I recall reading parts of -- parts of**
15 **that.**
16 Q. Your report was issued to us on November 6th of
17 2020.
18 **A. Right.**
19 Q. Approximately when did you review Dr. Franklin
20 Miller's report?
21 **A. I really can't remember. I reviewed so many**
22 **different reports and exhibits. And I just -- I**
23 **actually can't remember specific dates when I reviewed**
24 **different aspects of the -- of the reports.**
25 Q. When you reviewed Dr. Miller's report, did you

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1 review the portion about the testing that he conducted
2 of an exemplar MVE 808?
3 **A. I don't -- I don't remember reading that part.**
4 **MS. ZEMAN:** If I could interject for a moment,
5 I -- John, I think he may be confusing Mr. Miller's
6 report with Mr. Cauthen's report.
7 **THE WITNESS:** That is correct. I did read -- I
8 did read a Cauthen's report.
9 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Okay. And that's the retired
10 FBI agent; is that right?
11 **A. That's correct.**
12 Q. Did you review the report of Franklin Miller?
13 He's a professor of engineering at the University of
14 Wisconsin.
15 **A. No, I don't think I did. I think I got those**
16 **confused.**
17 Q. You're not aware of any testing on an
18 evaporation rate on an exemplar freezer that was
19 conducted by Professor Miller?
20 **A. No, I am not.**
21 Q. You reviewed the deposition of Jean Popwell; is
22 that right?
23 **A. Yes, I did.**
24 Q. And did you conclude approximately when she
25 claims to have manually measured liquid nitrogen levels

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1 in Tank 4 on Saturday, March 3?
2 **A. It seems that it was around 7:00 p.m.**
3 Q. Okay. And then you read Dr. Conaghan's
4 testimony about when he discovered the incident with the
5 vacuum seal; is that right?
6 **A. That's correct.**
7 Q. And would it be fair to say that your memory is
8 that Dr. Conaghan testified he discovered the incident
9 about 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4?
10 **A. Yes. I do remember it was sometime around**
11 **noon, that time frame.**
12 Q. And as part of your opinions in this case you
13 accepted as accurate the measurement of 14 inches of
14 liquid nitrogen on Saturday, March 3 as measured by Jean
15 Popwell. Is that a fair statement?
16 **A. Yes.**
17 Q. If it's proven that she did not measure liquid
18 nitrogen at all on Saturday, March 3, 2018, would that
19 alter your opinions?
20 **A. No, it wouldn't.**
21 Q. Why?
22 **A. Well, she did a fill. She did a -- the one --**
23 **it was an auto fill. She pushed the button and filled**
24 **the -- filled the tank and to cover up the canes, the**
25 **boxes down below -- that were stored in the bottom of**

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1 **the tank. But I do not have any reason to believe that**
2 **she did not measure the tank after she filled that**
3 **evening.**
4 Q. Is it your testimony that because Ms. Popwell
5 initiated a fill cycle on Tank 4 on Saturday, March 3,
6 if she failed to measure it manually with a dipstick it
7 wouldn't affect your opinions? Do I understand that
8 correctly?
9 **A. That's correct.**
10 Q. You did not review the data download for Tank
11 4's controller as part of your opinions; correct?
12 **A. Would you repeat that question?**
13 Q. Sure. You did not review the Tank 4 controller
14 data download as part of your work in this case;
15 correct?
16 **A. That is correct.**
17 Q. Technical break here for just one second, if we
18 could. Dr. Wininger, the microphone is rubbing again up
19 against your shirt.
20 **A. Let me take -- let me just take this jacket**
21 **off. Maybe it's rubbing on my jacket.**
22 Q. Okay.
23 **A. Is that any better?**
24 Q. Yes.
25 **MS. ZEMAN:** Do you want to do a count for us

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1 maybe?

2 **MR. DUFFY:** Sorry, Amy?

3 **MS. ZEMAN:** Do you want to do a count for us

4 just one more time?

5 **MR. DUFFY:** See how it works.

6 **THE WITNESS:** One, two, three, four, five.

7 **MR. DUFFY:** Sounds good.

8 **THE VIDEOGRAPHER:** Sounds good on my end.

9 **MR. DUFFY:** Okay. Good. Thank you.

10 **MS. ZEMAN:** I also notice I think sometimes

11 you're moving around in the chair swinging a little.

12 And it almost seemed like that was making it scratch as

13 well. So maybe avoid that.

14 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. I'll sit still.

15 **MS. ZEMAN:** No fidgeting allowed in this.

16 **MR. DUFFY:** Like we're all back in grade

17 school. All right. Okay. Let's go back, you guys.

18 All right.

19 Q. How long would an end user like yourself or Ms.

20 Popwell expect a fill cycle to take place on an MVE 808?

21 **A. Well, I personally have never used a controller**

22 **on a large tank like that. We use small tanks at our**

23 **labs. But I would -- I would think it could take up to**

24 **an hour to fill it depending on what the level was to**

25 **begin with. And if other tanks were being filled at the**

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1 same time and -- I would think that would affect the

2 amount of nitrogen that would go through the piping to

3 Tank 4. So -- but I personally do not have any

4 experience with that sort of tank.

5 Q. Okay. That leads me to a couple of questions I

6 should probably ask you, then, about the labs that you

7 worked in. In your time as a lab director have you ever

8 worked in a lab where you used a computer-controlled

9 cryogenic storage tank?

10 **A. No, I have -- I have not.**

11 Q. Are the storage vessels that you use in all of

12 your labs manual dewars with lids on them?

13 **A. The majority are. There are a couple of the**

14 **large steel tanks in Pittsburgh, but they do not use the**

15 **auto controllers. They do not use a controller**

16 **function. They do everything manually with that. And**

17 **so they don't -- so we do not -- still do not have any**

18 **experience using the computer-controlled fill function.**

19 Q. And in the five labs that you currently direct,

20 do you have a policy for manual measurements of the

21 cryogenic storage vessels?

22 **A. Yes. We have to -- College of American**

23 **Pathologists says if you -- no matter if you have any**

24 **types of alarms on your tank, you still have to do**

25 **manual monitoring at least three times a week and record**

Page 44

1 the value. So that's what we do.

2 Q. All five of your labs have a policy of manual

3 measurement three times a week; is that right?

4 **A. That's correct. And manual measurement three**

5 **times a week and then of course visual, visual --**

6 **looking at the nitrogen levels as well as we're going in**

7 **and out of the tanks which we do many times during the**

8 **-- during the week. So we actually see the nitrogen**

9 **there at the top of the tank. So these sorts of tanks**

10 **fill -- are filled to the very top, and they are**

11 **measured manually three times a week.**

12 Q. Are the measurements recorded somewhere?

13 **A. Yes. We do paper. We have paper charts that**

14 **we record those on that we keep, you know, close to the**

15 **tanks. And then we scan them -- scan all that into our**

16 **-- into a computer so that we'll have -- you know,**

17 **instead of keeping binders and binders and binders of**

18 **these records, we can scan them into our computer.**

19 Q. And for the five labs that you are currently

20 directing, were you doing manual measurements three days

21 a week before the incident at PFC?

22 **A. Well, one of the -- one of the labs is not an**

23 **IVF lab. One of them is a drug testing lab. So there**

24 **are four labs that we have tanks. One of them only has**

25 **frozen sperm -- the lab in Hermitage.**

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1 But yeah, the -- there was a new directive from

2 CAP saying to do more manual measurements. We had

3 always done manual measurements in my home lab in

4 Atlantic Fertility. So but now CAP says you have to do

5 manual measurements in addition to having any types of

6 remote monitoring.

7 Q. Right. And I guess my question was just to

8 that time period before the incident at PFC in March of

9 2018, in the four labs that you are the director where

10 you use cryogenic storage vessels did you have a policy

11 of manual measurement?

12 **A. Yes. We have always done manual measurements**

13 **at all of our facilities when -- just to have that**

14 **information showing if the tanks are low, getting low.**

15 **It will show more usage whether they're drop -- the**

16 **levels are dropping more than they should. But we do**

17 **have the alarms on them.**

18 But the number of manual measurements has

19 increased after all -- you know, all the incidents that

20 have occurred in the last, you know, three or four

21 years.

22 Q. So before the PFC and the University Hospitals

23 incidents in March of 2018, how often per week were you

24 having your personnel manually measure liquid nitrogen

25 levels in the cryogenic storage vessels?

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1 A. We were doing it one time a week.
2 Q. And was that once every seven days?
3 A. During -- yeah, during the workweek, yes.
4 Yeah, it would be -- it would be -- so it would be every
5 seven days because we work seven days a week.
6 Q. Prior to the incident at Pacific Fertility in
7 March of 2018, were all of the cryogenic storage vessels
8 in the labs that you directed connected to an alarm
9 system?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. Why did you do that prior to the PFC incident?
12 A. Well, the PFC incident really didn't have
13 anything to do with how we were doing remote monitoring.
14 We've done -- we have -- I've done remote monitoring for
15 at least 20 years that having monitor -- you know,
16 having probes in the -- in the tanks hooked to something
17 like a Sensaphone. So we have an auto dialer, or we
18 have different types of alarms just manual -- you know,
19 little alarms sticking down in the -- in the tanks that
20 made a really, really loud noise that would trip the
21 Sensaphone.
22 So because you can have a Sensaphone that can
23 pick up changes in am -- you know, the ambient noise.
24 So even things like that will set off the Sensaphone.
25 Set it off. So back in, you know, when I first started,

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1 we would use things like that. And the alarms have
2 gotten better and better over the years.
3 Q. So when -- what was the year that you started
4 being a lab director? I know it's in your CV, but I
5 don't have it before me.
6 A. 1990.
7 Q. 1990. Okay. So when you started as a lab
8 director in 1990, were all the cryogenic storage vessels
9 in your labs connected to a Sensaphone or other remote
10 alarm device?
11 A. Yes. Those were just by sound though. There
12 weren't wires or anything like that that went to the
13 Sensaphone. It was -- that was the ones that had --
14 just made a loud noise that -- so any loud noise that
15 occurred in the lab from anything, it could be any of
16 the -- we only had one tank at that time because
17 cryopreservation was fairly -- you know, fairly new in
18 1990. So the more we did, the more monitoring we would
19 have to do because of -- you'd move -- I moved to larger
20 and larger facilities, then you'd have more tanks and
21 then you'd need more monitoring.
22 Q. The -- I'll strike that.
23 Approximately when did the technology advance
24 such that you could put a probe in a cryogenic storage
25 tank and connect it to a Sensaphone or other remote

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1 alarm device?
2 A. I think that was, like, around 19 -- between
3 1995 and 2000. I don't know for sure, but it was
4 somewhere in that time frame.
5 Q. Okay. And when the technology developed at
6 that point where probes could be put in a cryogenic
7 storage tank and then directly connect it to a
8 Sensaphone or remote alarming device, did you move to
9 that technology for all of your labs?
10 A. Well, I didn't have a whole lot of labs at that
11 time. So -- but as I did -- started doing more on-site
12 directing, most of them already had remote alarms
13 already set up. So I was involved in helping to
14 purchase some new alarms and helping start set up probes
15 on new tanks as new tanks were purchased and things like
16 that. But the Pittsburgh labs and the Austin lab, they
17 already had alarms and Sensaphone measurement when I
18 started with them.
19 Q. When you were the lab director at Abington
20 Memorial from '93 to 1998, were the cryogenic storage
21 vessels there connected directly to a Sensaphone or
22 other remote alarm device?
23 A. No, they weren't.
24 Q. When you moved to become the director of
25 laboratories at the Reproductive Biology Associates in

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1 Atlanta, Georgia, from 1998 to 2003, were the cryogenic
2 storage vessels there directly connected to a Sensaphone
3 device?
4 A. When I first took over they were not. But they
5 weren't -- they did not have CAP accreditation when I
6 took over. So as I was there, I got -- I did get them
7 CAP accredited, and we did start doing -- we did not
8 have the remote alarms. We did add the -- just the
9 sound alarms that I was telling you about and had those
10 hooked up.
11 Q. At the Premier Fertility Center in High Point,
12 North Carolina, where you served as the lab director
13 from 2007 to 2016, did they have remote alarms
14 monitoring the cryogenic vessels?
15 A. We did not have -- we did not have probes in
16 those tanks either. We had -- I think we had one tank
17 that we kept embryos in.
18 Q. How many tanks did you have at Premier facility
19 Center -- Fertility Center? Excuse me.
20 A. Yeah. We had one tank for sperm that was kept
21 in the andrology lab, and we had one tank for embryos
22 and oocytes that was kept in the embryology lab. And,
23 again, I had that hooked up to another one of the
24 sound-type alarms because I did have Sensaphones in the
25 lab that I had my incubators hooked to. And any sound

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1 -- again, any sound that came from that tank or
2 anything, really, in the lab would set off the -- set
3 off an alarm and I'd get a call. And other people in
4 the lab would get a call, too, but I was always first.
5 Q. At some point in the nine years where you --
6 where you were the director of laboratories at Premier
7 Fertility, did you move to a probe device that was
8 directly connected to a Sensaphone or other remote alarm
9 device?
10 A. No, I did not.
11 Q. You always had the system where the Sensaphone
12 would listen for an audible alarm coming from a freezer
13 and then send the page or call?
14 A. Right. Yes.
15 Q. And what type of alarms were used in the
16 Premier Fertility Center for the dewars that you had?
17 A. That's what I was talking about.
18 Q. Okay. Maybe I just didn't understand.
19 A. Yeah. It was -- it was the sound-type alarm.
20 It made the loud noise that changed the total, like,
21 normal ambient sound level in a lab which was normally
22 very quiet. And if it goes -- if that thing went off
23 like a siren, it would set off the Sensaphone and I
24 would get a call.
25 Q. So at Premier Fertility Center the two tanks

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1 that you had there had probes inside with audible
2 alarms. Fair?
3 A. Right.
4 Q. And then what conditions would set off an
5 audible alarm from the cryogenic storage vessels at
6 Premier Fertility?
7 A. Sound.
8 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. What condition inside the
9 cryogenic storage vessel would cause an alarm?
10 A. If the nitrogen fell to a level below the
11 probe.
12 Q. And where was the probe set at?
13 A. It was down -- it was in the nitrogen down
14 about 4 inches into the nitrogen level.
15 Q. So if the liquid nitrogen level fell below that
16 4-inch level, it would cause an audible alarm from the
17 probe?
18 A. Correct.
19 Q. And that audible alarm would then be picked up
20 by the Sensaphone and would call and text you; is that
21 right?
22 A. Right. Right. It never -- it never happened
23 the ten years that I was there, but we did have it set
24 up.
25 Q. And when you were in Atlanta for the period

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1 1998 to 2003, did you have probes in the cryogenic
2 storage vessels in that lab that had alarming
3 capability?
4 A. Yes. That's -- we talked about that a few
5 minutes ago. Yeah, we had the same sort of setup
6 with -- after I got them CAP accredited, we started
7 having the alarm stuck down in the neck of the -- of
8 those -- of the dewars to make the sound similar to what
9 I was talking about at Premier Fertility.
10 Q. Okay. In 2015 you moved to Atlantic
11 Reproductive Medicine as a lab director; is that right?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. And were the dewars that you used in that lab
14 equipped with probes as well?
15 A. At that time they were not. But within six
16 months of being there, they had -- they had a Sensaphone
17 on the wall in the embryology lab. But I add a new
18 Sensaphone and a new -- probes in all the tanks and a
19 unit called a Cryo-Save on the wall. So that monitored
20 all of our tanks. So we had six tanks there. So I set
21 that up as soon as I took over. And that's what we
22 currently have there and same thing we have in
23 Pittsburgh.
24 Q. Are the probes in Atlantic Reproductive
25 Medicine's lab from approximately 2013 to 2017, were

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1 they directly connected to the Sensaphone or did they
2 just have the audible alarm feature that would be heard
3 by the Sensaphone?
4 A. At that time they had the audible. Just the
5 audible. But when I took over, I added the probes that
6 were actually monitored and hooked to the Cryo-Save unit
7 and the Sensaphone. So it was a different -- you know,
8 different type of monitoring.
9 Q. Let me make sure I understand how you made the
10 changes there. So when you were at Atlantic
11 Reproductive Medicine, when you arrived they had a
12 Sensaphone but no probes in the dewars?
13 A. They had -- when I got there they had about
14 three tanks. And they had -- they had -- they had
15 audible alarms in those tanks. But -- and they did have
16 the Sensaphone on the wall.
17 Q. Okay.
18 A. But when I got there I was -- I just said I
19 think we need to -- we're getting more tanks with the
20 increase of vitrification that we're doing, genetic
21 testing, oocyte cryopreservation, vitrification, I
22 wanted to update the alarm system. So we did order the
23 probes, the Cryo-Save unit, and hooked that all to the
24 Sensaphone.
25 Q. Okay. And then when you bought the probes for

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 Atlantic Reproductive Medicine in that period between 2 2015 and 2017, were they connected by a wire to the 3 Sensaphone? 4 A. Yes. They were -- they were hooked to a wire 5 to a unit called a Cryo-Save which is sort of a -- it's 6 just another box that's hooked -- it's on the wall that 7 you hook all those probes to so -- because you can't 8 hook all those probes up to the Sensaphone. You would 9 hook one wire to the Sensaphone. 10 So the Cryo-Save is sort of a -- sort of a 11 middleman in the chain for the Sensaphone. So you hook 12 all these cables up to the Cryo-Save, and then you have 13 a -- one wire that goes from the Cryo-Save to the 14 Sensaphone. So any alarm for any of those tanks that 15 occurs, that would go to the Cryo-Save. That would -- 16 the Cryo-Save would have an audible alarm trip up going 17 from open to a closed position on a transistor in there, 18 and then that would go to the Sensaphone and 19 automatically start dialing. 20 So if you can't -- the probe -- the probe wires 21 are very large. I mean, they look like big -- the old 22 phone cords all coiled and things like that. So you 23 can't hook something like that to a Sensaphone. 24 Q. Okay. Let me just ask you. When you became 25 the lab director at Carolina Specialty Care, did they</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 Saturday, March 3; correct? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And you have no personal experience with an MVE 4 808 cryogenic storage tank with a controller; correct? 5 A. That's correct. 6 Q. So would it be fair to say you don't have any 7 personal knowledge of how long it takes to fill an MVE 8 808 using a TEC 3000 controller? 9 A. That's correct. 10 Q. And would it also be true that you don't 11 personally know what would be considered an excessively 12 long fill time for an MVE 808 using a TEC 3000 13 controller? 14 A. That's correct. 15 Q. And you have no personal experience with an MVE 16 808 with a TEC 3000 controller running out of liquid 17 nitrogen; correct? 18 A. That's correct. 19 Q. In the labs that you've directed over the years 20 -- well, strike that. 21 As part of your work in this case did you 22 review a video of an inspection of the Pacific Fertility 23 lab? 24 A. No, I did not. 25 Q. Through some of the deposition testimony have</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 have probes connected to a Sensaphone? 2 A. Again, they do not do -- they are a drug 3 testing laboratory. 4 Q. All right. Thank you. I'm sorry. When you 5 joined the Magee Women's Hospital and the University of 6 Pittsburgh Physician labs in November of 2017, did they 7 have probes that were directly connected to the 8 Cryo-Save and then to the Sensaphone? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. And at Westlake in Austin, Texas, when you took 11 over as lab director in February of 2018, were the 12 cryogenic storage vessels connected to a Cryo-Save and 13 then connected to the Sensaphone? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Okay. I want to take you back now to the 16 opinion that you have in your report about users not 17 expecting to lose 14 inches of LN2 in less than 24 18 hours. Is that an opinion that you hold? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. And that would be based on the 14-inch 21 measurement that Jean Popwell made on Saturday, March 3; 22 correct? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. It would also be based on the fact that you 25 believe she filled Tank 4 with liquid nitrogen on</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 you come to learn how it was that they connected supply 2 tanks to the Tank 4 at issue in this case? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And there were supply tanks in one room; is 5 that right? 6 A. Yes. Supply tanks were in the room adjacent to 7 where the tank -- where the actual embryos are stored in 8 the tanks. 9 Q. They were connected to Tank 4 by a plumbing 10 system that went up into the ceiling and over into the 11 IVF lab? 12 A. I do not -- I do not know how the pipes ran. 13 Q. Okay. 14 A. I just -- I do know that they were hooked to 15 the liquid nitrogen source. 16 Q. And that was through piping between the two 17 rooms; correct? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. In any of the labs that you've ever directed, 20 have you had that system? 21 A. No. 22 Q. In your labs the only way you would go about 23 filling liquid nitrogen is doing it manually; is that 24 correct? 25 A. Yes.</p>

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1 Q. Please describe that process.

2 A. We have a tank room where we have our gases for

3 the incubators and we have the liquid nitrogen dewars

4 there. And there's a large steel hose hooked to the

5 large nitrogen dewar. The hose goes through a wall into

6 a -- an area where we would be -- we would roll the

7 tanks to that. It's a couple -- a couple rooms down.

8 These small tanks have rollers on them. We can roll

9 them over there and fill them --

10 Q. Let me clarify one thing before you finish your

11 answer. When you say move the tanks, sometimes we refer

12 to the supply tanks as tanks and then dewars as being a

13 different thing. So when you say you're rolling

14 something over to this area where the fill pipe is, is

15 that the cryogenic dewar?

16 A. The dewars, correct. The dewar -- the small

17 dewars are all on rollers, and we can roll the dewar

18 over to the area where the pipe -- where the hose comes

19 through the wall. And we fill the tanks manually at

20 that point. So we fill all the tanks. And we also have

21 two empty tanks that we keep filled.

22 And so we'd fill everything, and I'd roll them

23 back over and hook them back up to the alarm system.

24 Q. Prior to the incident at PFC in March of 2018,

25 when would you do the manual measurements on a weekly

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1 basis?

2 A. We would do them in the morning with -- when we

3 did the rest of our QC.

4 Q. And how often would you fill the cryogenic

5 dewars on a weekly basis?

6 A. We'd fill them one time.

7 Q. And is that -- would you manually measure the

8 level of liquid nitrogen before you added more liquid

9 nitrogen?

10 A. No, we would not.

11 Q. Would you fill the dewar with liquid nitrogen

12 and then manually measure them?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Would manual measurements be done at a time

15 different than the filling?

16 A. Yeah, again, we would take the measurement in

17 the mornings when we did the rest of our QC, QA

18 measurements on everything. And most of the time the

19 tank filling would be in the -- would be, you know,

20 after lunch sometime.

21 Q. I see. But just to make sure I understand the

22 frequency of measurement in your labs, you would

23 manually measure only once a week; is that right?

24 A. Prior to the new CAP guidelines.

25 Q. Right. And would you measure manually the

Page 60

1 liquid nitrogen levels in the dewars on the same days

2 that you would fill them?

3 A. Not -- it wouldn't have to be. It could be we

4 would just measure them. If we did one -- you know,

5 three or four years ago if we did once a week, we would

6 measure them in the morning and then sometimes it may be

7 the same day that we measured them. Sometimes it

8 wouldn't be. It just --

9 Q. And --

10 A. It just -- it didn't -- it didn't really

11 matter. We just wanted to get the measurement. Now we

12 measure them Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. And then we

13 fill them usually midweek.

14 Q. Okay. But back to the time before the incident

15 in this case in March of 2018, it would be normal for

16 your lab to fill on one day and probably not measure

17 until several days later? Is that a fair statement?

18 A. It could have been a couple days earlier, a

19 couple days later. There wasn't really -- they -- the

20 measurement was more than likely the middle of the week.

21 It was probably on Wednesday. And I think most of the

22 time they did filling on Fridays.

23 Q. Okay. And then by taking those measurements,

24 what would you do with the liquid nitrogen measurement

25 data prior to March of 2018?

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1 A. We would basically do the same thing we're

2 doing now. We would fill them, put it on the piece of

3 paper that we have. We actually have it near -- there's

4 a refrigerator near our tanks that we have those forms

5 on there that we go through, fill them out.

6 At that time we were not scanning them. So we

7 do have notebooks full of that -- full of that data.

8 But when we did upgrade our computer system and our

9 drives, we can scan them now so we did not have to keep

10 the paper copies. But we've always recorded them on

11 paper copies.

12 Q. And then would you ever use that LN2

13 measurement data to calculate LN2 consumption of each

14 individual dewar?

15 A. We really did not because we would fill them --

16 fill them to the top which is -- you know, these dewars

17 are way different than the stainless steel ones.

18 They're much smaller. And you fill them all the way to

19 the -- really to the Styrofoam plug. So -- and the

20 probe goes down through the Styrofoam plug into the

21 liquid nitrogen. So we would know if there was an issue

22 with a tank starting to go bad. We've never had one

23 that has gone bad by the different characteristics of a

24 tank. So we do not -- we have not calculated the usage.

25 Q. Do you use MVE dewars in your labs?

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1 A. Yes, we do.

2 Q. Do you use any other company's dewars in your
3 labs?

4 A. I don't think so. I think that they are -- the
5 small tanks are all MVE.

6 Q. When you're filling the dewars in your labs,
7 you're filling them all the way up to the top of the
8 neck where the lid is, is that a fair statement?

9 A. Well, you got -- you have about a 8-inch
10 Styrofoam --

11 Q. Right.

12 A. -- piece underneath the lid. It would be
13 filled up to that -- to the Styrofoam.

14 Q. And then how much distance would there be
15 between the top of the samples in your MVE dewars and
16 the top level of liquid nitrogen when you fill it?

17 A. Well, I don't know if you're just talking about
18 the canes themselves. The samples are down in the very,
19 very bottom of the cane. And the oocyte or embryo is at
20 the very, very bottom of the devices. We put the --
21 into the -- into the bottom goblet on that cane. So the
22 top of the cane is covered with, I'd say, 6 inches -- 6
23 to 8 inches of liquid nitrogen. So that's at the very
24 top of the cane. So all of the biological materials are
25 at the very, very bottom of the dewar. Because that's

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1 how we load them.

2 Q. And so the samples in the dewars, the MVE
3 dewars that you have, are located even further from the
4 top of the cane; is that right?

5 A. Yes. Yeah. They're probably, again, maybe 6,
6 7, 8 inches from the top of the cane to the top of the
7 liquid nitrogen level.

8 Q. So there might be -- sorry. Go ahead.

9 A. Oh, yeah, there's, like, six metal canisters in
10 there. You could put -- you can put about, you know,
11 15, 20 canes in a canister. And then you would -- you'd
12 know which canister you need to go into. So you would
13 pull those up. And, again, the canes have two plastic
14 goblets on them, and the bottom goblet has the embryos
15 on them or eggs.

16 Q. Would you estimate, then, the distance between
17 the actual samples in your MVE dewars and the top of the
18 liquid nitrogen level after you fill? Is that about 14
19 inches or so?

20 A. Yeah, 14 to 16 inches. You know, they're the
21 very bottom -- very bottom of the tank.

22 Q. As part of your answers to one of my questions
23 I thought I heard you say that you've never had a
24 cryogenic dewar lose vacuum seal; is that right?

25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. And let me be just a little more precise. I

2 know you're an off-site lab director. Have any of the
3 labs that you've ever directed experienced a vacuum seal
4 failure in a cryogenic dewar?

5 A. They have not as I -- when I have been their
6 lab director, there has not been any events where there
7 was a tank failure. And there was not -- there was no
8 conversation about a prior tank failure as we were
9 talking about tanks. So I would have -- I would have
10 thought, you know, if it would have happened, say, five
11 years earlier before I took over, they would -- you
12 know, they would have said something about it. But I've
13 never heard any tank failures at any of the labs I've
14 been associated with.

15 Q. And how long do you keep MVE dewars before you
16 replace them with new equipment?

17 A. We have not replaced any at Atlantic Fertility.
18 I mean, those aren't -- I think they started business
19 around 2013. So probably their oldest tanks are seven
20 years old. I'd say the Pennsylvania lab probably has
21 some older tanks than -- much older tanks than that.
22 They have been in operation longer than that.

23 But until a tank shows that it's losing vacuum,
24 there is really no reason to replace them. We have them
25 monitored. They're not showing signs of cooling, cool

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1 to the touch or frost on the tanks or anything like that
2 that we look for. So as long as we do not see things
3 like that, we do not replace them.

4 Q. In your work as a lab director, have you
5 employed a policy of transferring samples every five
6 years to a backup tank and then drying out one of your
7 dewars?

8 A. No. We do not do that.

9 Q. Prior to the incident in March of 2018 were you
10 aware of the signs and symptoms of a cryogenic dewar
11 that's losing vacuum seal?

12 A. Yes, I was.

13 Q. And what was your knowledge about the signs and
14 symptoms of a vacuum seal loss prior to March of 2018?

15 A. Well, as I mentioned a minute ago, the tank
16 would get cool to the touch as the vacuum starts -- or
17 the tank starts losing the vacuum in between the two
18 walls that keep -- kind of serves as an insulation for
19 the tank. And if that vacuum starts breaking down, you
20 start feeling the cold on the tank because you start
21 feeling some of the -- you know, some of the cold of the
22 liquid nitrogen.

23 And as it gets worse you start seeing frost,
24 frost appear on the bottom of the tank. And those are
25 the -- and the increased use of liquid nitrogen if

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1 you're -- if you're filling them up. And it's like if
2 we roll them somewhere and we fill them up and we see
3 that it's much lower, then we would -- that would be
4 another sign.
5 But we've -- in our -- again, some of our
6 meetings that we have, you know, over -- you know, over
7 the last 15, 20 years, those are -- you know, people
8 have given presentations on things like that.
9 Q. And that was one of the questions I was going
10 to ask is how you came to learn about the signs and
11 symptoms of vacuum seal loss in a cryogenic dewar.
12 Could you explain how you did come to understand that?
13 A. Yes. It was -- it was through scientific
14 meetings, online meetings that people talk about these
15 types of issues. There have been presentations, poster
16 presentations at these meetings that we go to annually
17 or -- again, go to the AAB meeting that I was talking
18 about. There seemed to be always nice presentations on
19 signs and symptoms of a dewar going bad.
20 Q. And who gave those presentations? Was it the
21 lab director, or was it someone else?
22 A. I can't recollect who. There have been
23 multiple, multiple presentations. And there are always
24 poster presentations at these -- at these meetings as
25 well. And sometimes there's nobody at the poster to

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1 talk to about it. You just kind of go by and read it.
2 So it's -- I can't remember who gave the presentations.
3 Q. In any of the presentations that you've either
4 read or attended, did any of the speakers talk about
5 vacuum seal loss not producing ice, condensation, or
6 water?
7 A. No. I do not remember anyone presenting
8 anything saying that it would just happen without signs
9 and symptoms. And they would always say it was good to
10 have a spare tank in case something like that did -- you
11 know, if you did have a ring of frost around the bottom
12 of your tank and it's cold to the touch, that was sign
13 that the vacuum loss was going to be occurring and it
14 would be a time to start moving samples to another tank.
15 MR. DUFFY: We've been going for about an hour.
16 Dr. Wininger, would you like to take a short break?
17 MS. ZEMAN: We can go off the record and talk
18 about that?
19 MR. DUFFY: Yep.
20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now going off the
21 record. The time is 10:13 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.
22 (Whereupon lunch recess was taken from 10:13 to
23 10:49.)
24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now going back on the
25 record, and the time is 10:49 a.m. Pacific Standard

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1 Time.
2 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: Dr. Wininger, it's an opinion
3 that you hold in this case that a rapid vacuum seal
4 failure is dangerous to the samples; correct?
5 A. Correct.
6 Q. Would you please explain to me why you think
7 that.
8 A. Well, a rapid vacuum loss, whether -- in any
9 type of tank causes a -- you know, a rapid decrease in
10 the liquid nitrogen levels. And the majority of the
11 samples, oocytes and embryos, are vitrified, and they
12 really need to stay cooler than minus 150. And if they
13 -- if they get into the range of warmer than 150 and up
14 to minus 132, you start having really significant ice
15 crystal formation which is a major -- really detrimental
16 to eggs and embryos. So -- and which will lead to major
17 tissue damage, decreased thaw rate, viability rate, and
18 pregnancy rates, and delivery rates.
19 Q. In terms of a rapid vacuum seal loss, it's your
20 estimate that -- well, strike that.
21 Your definition of "rapid," when you say a
22 rapid vacuum seal loss is less than 24 hours; correct?
23 A. Well, to me rapid just means something that
24 occurs without any indication that there's a tank vacuum
25 problem. In -- you know, in the large tanks, small

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1 tanks, any tanks, if you're seeing no signs that we
2 spoke of earlier and you have vacuum loss and loss of
3 liquid nitrogen, I think whether it occurs in, you know,
4 5 hours, you know, or, you know, 24 hours, it's just
5 something that can occur after the last time that you
6 filled it and you come back and it's empty. I don't
7 know how -- what the time frame was, but definitely it
8 would be less than 24 hours for sure.
9 Q. Could it be as fast as 5 hours?
10 A. I do not know. I don't -- do not really know
11 how fast it can occur.
12 Q. Is it more important from a standpoint of a lab
13 director to be focusing on the exterior signs and
14 symptoms of vacuum seal loss so that you can do
15 something to address it?
16 A. Well, it's all the staff, all the embryology
17 staff have -- is trained in knowing when there's a
18 potential tank failure that's imminent. So, I mean, I
19 would -- I would definitely be sort of in charge of
20 saying, "Okay. We got to move it all -- everything from
21 this tank to this tank." But everyone knows the signs
22 and symptoms of a -- of a -- of a dewar that's going bad
23 because it's, you know, all of them have vacuum and all
24 of them you would expect to see those signs.
25 Q. In your undergraduate studies did you take any

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1 physics classes?

2 **A. I took one physics class.**

3 Q. In your time as a lab director have you ever

4 seen an LN2 supply tank lose vacuum seal?

5 **A. Are you talking -- you're talking about dewar?**

6 Q. No. The LN2 supply cylinders with the gauges

7 on top.

8 **A. No. No, I have never seen one of those lose**

9 **pressure.**

10 Q. Is it your memory in reviewing the depositions

11 of the PFC lab personnel that none of them saw the signs

12 and symptoms of vacuum seal loss?

13 **A. That's correct. I do not see any -- anyone**

14 **that saw a symptom of vacuum seal loss.**

15 Q. And if you had seen vacuum seal loss before

16 12:30 on March 4, you would have expected to see ice,

17 water, and condensation; correct?

18 **MS. ZEMAN:** Could you read back the question.

19 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

20 **MS. ZEMAN:** Objection. Vague and ambiguous.

21 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: You can answer.

22 **A. I don't -- I don't know if you would have seen**

23 **all of those symptoms when the vacuum is already totally**

24 **lost. I mean, the signs that we have been discussing**

25 **have to do with an imminent vacuum seal loss, not one**

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1 **that has already totally occurred. Vacuum can start**

2 **decreasing. And when that occurs, you do have those**

3 **symptoms.**

4 **But when you have the total vacuum seal loss,**

5 **generally really you would just -- you would see**

6 **condensation, you know, around the tank, but you would**

7 **not see -- since the purpose of the vacuum is to keep**

8 **the cold in and the warm out. If the vacuum's already**

9 **gone, there's not any cold in there. Or if there is,**

10 **there is very, very little. So you really wouldn't see**

11 **a big frost ring on a tank that you've already had a**

12 **hundred percent vacuum loss.**

13 Q. Your expectation at least; correct?

14 **A. Correct. And that's -- I mean, those are -- I**

15 **mean, these are things that, again, we have in these**

16 **meetings that I've gone to and posters I've read over**

17 **the last, you know, 20-some years at these meetings**

18 **about tanks. These are things that they have -- they**

19 **have talked about.**

20 Q. Sure. Is that you actually would see those

21 signs and symptoms of vacuum seal loss on the exterior

22 of the -- of the tank; correct?

23 **A. You see them when there's an imminent threat of**

24 **a vacuum seal loss that -- when you see those things,**

25 **you know that something -- that it's probably going to**

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1 **be happening. So at that time they have told us to go**

2 **ahead and transfer the samples when you see that, that**

3 **you're -- there is going to be an event. The vacuum is**

4 **still there, but it's losing vacuum. So when you have**

5 **the signs and symptoms, there's something you can do it**

6 **about it at least.**

7 Q. Go ahead.

8 **A. Yeah, just say those -- but, I mean, those are**

9 **the things -- I mean, we haven't had it, but these are**

10 **all things that I've attended a lot of lectures on.**

11 Q. And in the lectures and presentations that

12 you've attended, have they always had liquid nitrogen

13 inside the dewar?

14 **A. There have been -- there have been some that**

15 **have been inside the dewar, and they have had some**

16 **incident reports of people that have had vacuum loss and**

17 **that they showed that the tanks have gone bad and that**

18 **they transferred everything to the new tank. So they --**

19 **these were, you know, slides and videos and things like**

20 **that that show what they did when they thought that**

21 **there was going to be an imminent loss of vacuum.**

22 Q. Did you review any of those presentations prior

23 to writing your report?

24 **A. No, I did not.**

25 Q. Are you relying on any of those presentations

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1 or studies for your opinions in this case?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. One of the things I think I just wanted to make

4 sure I understood in terms of your understanding of

5 vacuum seal loss, in all the presentation studies that

6 you have read generally, did they all talk about water,

7 ice, and condensation on the exterior of the freezer as

8 being a sign or symptom of vacuum seal loss?

9 **A. They say it's a sign or symptom of vacuum. But**

10 **vacuum is still present, but it -- there is an imminent**

11 **threat of the vacuum totally not being there for -- you**

12 **know, we don't know how long it's going to be there. So**

13 **they just -- you know, we've always been told when you**

14 **see those types of symptoms that the tank is still full**

15 **of liquid nitrogen, but it's cold -- cool to the touch,**

16 **you have an ice ring around it, they say something is**

17 **probably going to happen soon. You know, we don't know**

18 **how soon. But they say this is the time where you need**

19 **to be proactive and go ahead and move your samples to**

20 **another tank before you do have a vacuum -- total vacuum**

21 **loss.**

22 Q. But in each of those studies the thing that's

23 causing the ice, the water, and the condensation is the

24 liquid nitrogen that's inside the dewar. Is that a fair

25 statement?

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1 A. Right. Right. As you have vacuum loss, you do
2 start having those symptoms. You do have a ring. But
3 again, these dewars are -- from what have been reported
4 have been pretty well full of liquid nitrogen. But as
5 you have vacuum loss, you do start feeling some of the
6 cold on the -- on the outside of the tank.
7 Q. Because it's escaping from inside the dewar to
8 the outside?
9 A. Correct.
10 Q. And the laws of physics would say what we'll
11 see then is the development of ice and water; correct?
12 A. Yeah. If -- as long as there's still a
13 substantial amount of liquid nitrogen in the tank, you
14 will have ice on the outside of the tank.
15 Q. What if the inside of the dewar was empty of
16 liquid nitrogen, would you expect to see ice, water, and
17 condensation on the exterior of the dewar?
18 MS. ZEMAN: Objection. I think we're getting
19 beyond the scope of his expert testimony.
20 Q. BY MR. DUFFY: You can answer.
21 A. From what I remember, if it's totally -- if the
22 vacuum seal -- the vacuum is totally gone, you do not
23 have all of those symptoms anymore because a lot of the
24 nitrogen will be gone, if not all. It won't be cool to
25 the touch because the nitrogen may be at extremely low

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1 or zero level. And any condensation that could have
2 been on there has turned to water. And most people just
3 say there's going to be water and under -- you know,
4 around the tank. That's what I've always heard.
5 Q. Well, if they're full of liquid nitrogen inside
6 the dewar, you wouldn't expect to see ice, water, and
7 condensation on the outside. Fair?
8 A. If there's no nitrogen -- yeah, I wouldn't --
9 if there's no nitrogen in the tank, I would -- I would
10 just -- I would expect to see a liquid under the -- you
11 know, around the tank because as liquid nitrogen is
12 being depleted, then now the vacuum is gone, I think at
13 some point you would have probably had some sort of
14 condensation or -- on the outside of the tank as
15 nitrogen was leaving the tank and which would just
16 basically sweat off the tank and the floor.
17 Q. But you would agree with me without a cooling
18 source inside the dewar with vacuum seal loss you're not
19 going to get the sweating on the outside, ice balls, and
20 water. Fair?
21 A. You wouldn't get the ice crystallization on the
22 outside of the tank.
23 Q. Because you have liquid source; right?
24 A. Right. You don't have a liquid nitrogen source
25 if the tank is empty. But you would have -- as I said,

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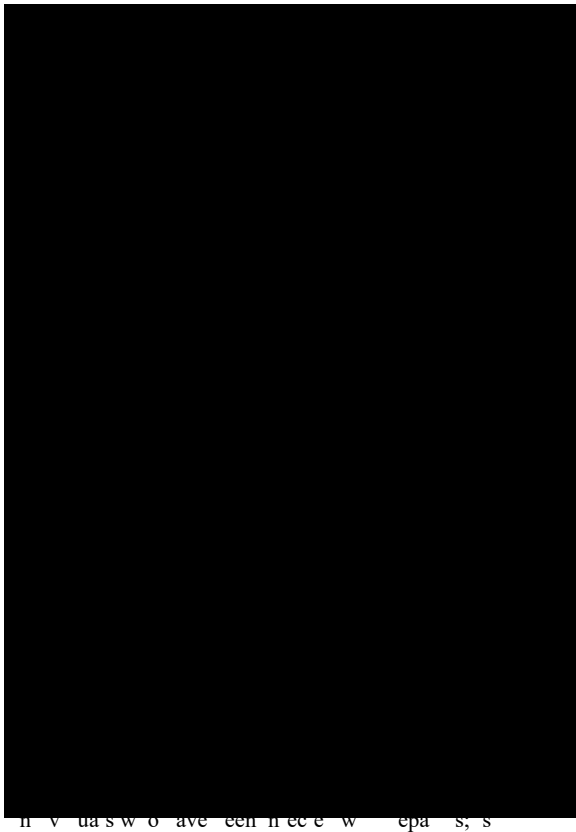
1 as the nitrogen is being depleted, you probably have
2 something going on on the outside of the tank as this is
3 occurring the same as when we take nitrogen from our
4 dewar -- our liquid nitrogen tanks to fill our dewars.
5 When that occurs, they're -- we get condensation on the
6 outside of the liquid nitrogen source.
7 So I just -- I just think it -- this is all
8 from things that I've, you know, read and the -- and the
9 presentations that I've gone to over the years. This is
10 basically what they're saying. You just have to pay
11 attention to your tanks and know when there's going to
12 be a threat so you can do something about it in terms of
13 the ice ring and cool to the touch.
14 Q. You hold an opinion in the case that the eggs
15 and embryos that were in the tank before the March 2018
16 incident -- well, strike that. Let me break that up.
17 You reviewed the depositions in Tank 4
18 controller data for 2013 and 2014; is that right?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. And you reviewed the success rates calculated
21 by Dr. Jewell for December 2013 and January 2014?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And you concluded that there was no evidence of
24 damage to the samples that were in Tank 4 in December of
25 2013 and January of 2014. Is that a fair statement?

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1 A. Yes.
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
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21 [REDACTED]
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1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED].
3 Q. What are other diseases that require storage of
4 biological tissue in LN2 vapor?
5 A. Well, if there were any -- anything like
6 HIV-infected samples, samples that are very -- samples
7 like you said, hepatitis, HIV. Those are the main ones.
8 I -- you know, we have -- we have a few of those that we
9 keep in a dry shipper -- and that's something else that
10 we would ship off site. Anybody with a -- with a --
11 something like that, we would -- you know, we would ship
12 that to ReproTech as well because they can store it.
13 Q. They can store it. All right. But it is an
14 accepted form of cryogenic storage to store human tissue
15 in LN2 vapor; correct?
16 A. It is. It is acceptable, but I do not know the
17 type of tank they would use and the size of the tank
18 they would use to do something like that.
19 Q. When samples are stored in LN2 vapor you can
20 achieve a temperature that allows the tissue to remain
21 cryogenically preserved. Is that a fair statement?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And in looking at the controller data for Tank
24 4, it maintained a temperature log for that period
25 December 2013 and January 2014; is that right?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. And it consistently showed a temperature of
3 about negative 196 Celsius; correct?
4 A. Correct.
5 Q. Do you have a quality control manual for the
6 labs where you act as lab director?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Do you have a QC policy concerning connecting
9 cryogenic storage vessels to an alarm device?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And was that policy in place before the
12 incident at PFC in March of 2018?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. And does your QC manual require that all your
15 cryogenic storage vessels be connected to an alarm's
16 device like a Sensaphone?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And was that the same policy that was in place
19 before the incident at PFC in March of 2018?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. With the alarm devices that you put in your
22 cryogenic storage vessels, if liquid nitrogen level fell
23 below that 4-inch safety zone that you have, it would
24 cause an alarm to sound; correct?
25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. And that's an audible alarm at the cryo storage
2 device; correct?
3 A. Yes. It's a audible alarm at the Cryo-Save
4 unit.
5 Q. And then how long before that translates into a
6 call from the Sensaphone?
7 A. At one minute.
8 Q. Have you ever ignored a call from the
9 Sensaphone in any of your labs?
10 A. No.
11 MR. DUFFY: I don't have any other questions.
12 Thank you very much for your time.
13 MS. ZEMAN: I may have a few redirect
14 questions. If we could maybe take a five- to ten-minute
15 break so I can just look over my notes.
16 MR. DUFFY: Yeah.
17 MS. ZEMAN: Okay. Thanks.
18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the record
19 at 11:14 a.m.
20 (Whereupon a break was taken from 11:14 to
21 11:26.)
22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now going back on the
23 record. And the time is 11:26 a.m. Pacific Standard
24 Time.
25 //

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1 EXAMINATION BY MS. ZEMAN
2 Q. Dr. Wininger, there's just one matter I wanted
3 to revisit. And that was earlier in your testimony I
4 believe Mr. Duffy asked you if you had reviewed the Tank
5 4 controller data. And my recollection is that you
6 thought you had not reviewed that. Does that sound
7 familiar?
8 A. Yeah, that's familiar.
9 Q. Okay. If you could look at page 29 of your
10 report. And once you get there about at a third of the
11 way down there's a reference to CHART070093 and then a
12 parentheses reference to a maximum event log. Do you
13 recollect what that document is?
14 A. Yes. It's the controller, the controller data
15 for Tank 4.
16 Q. So does that refresh your recollection if you
17 reviewed that material?
18 A. Yes, I did -- I did look at it. I reviewed it.
19 It was a ton of -- ton of information. I certainly
20 didn't memorize anything. But I looked over it and just
21 tried to familiar myself -- familiarize myself with some
22 of that. But now that I remember exactly what that was,
23 I did -- I did spend some time looking over that.
24 Q. And you reviewed that partially in relation to
25 the 2013 and 2014 alleged prior warming events; correct?


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1 A. Yes, that's correct.
2 MS. ZEMAN: No further questions.
3 MR. DUFFY: Okay. I think we're all done;
4 right?
5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This marks the end of the
6 remote deposition. We are going off the record at 11:28
7 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. Thank you, Counsel.
8 (Whereupon the proceedings were concluded at
9 11:28 a.m.)
10 ---oOo---
11 //
12 //
13 I have read the foregoing deposition
14 transcript and by signing hereafter, approve same.
15
16 Dated _____.
17
18 _____
19 (Signature of Deponent)
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1 DEPOSITION OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE
2 (Civ. Proc. § 2025.520(e))
3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
4 COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA) ss
5
6 I, CHERREE P. PETERSON, hereby certify:
7 I am a duly qualified Certified Shorthand
8 Reporter, in the State of California, holder of
9 Certificate Number CSR 11108 issued by the Court
10 Reporters Board of California and which is in full force
11 and effect. (Fed. R. Civ. P. 28(a)).
12 I am authorized to administer oaths or
13 affirmations pursuant to California Code of Civil
14 Procedure, Section 2093(b) and prior to being examined,
15 the witness was first duly sworn by me. (Fed. R. Civ.
16 P. 28(a), 30(f)(1)).
17 I am not a relative or employee of any attorney
18 or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or
19 employee of such attorney or counsel, nor am I
20 financially interested in this action. (Fed. R. Civ. P.
21 28).
22 I am the deposition officer that
23 stenographically recorded the testimony in the foregoing
24 deposition and the foregoing transcript is a true record
25 of the testimony given by the witness. (Fed. R. Civ. P.

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1 30(f)(1)).
2 Before completion of the deposition, review of
3 the transcript (xx) was () was not requested. If
4 requested, any changes made by the deponent (and
5 provided to the reporter) during the period allowed, are
6 appended hereto. (Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(e)).
7
8 Dated: December 1, 2020
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